

IN THE CLAIMS:

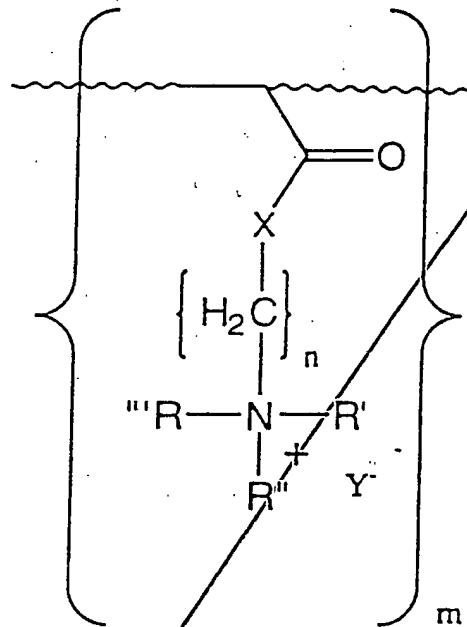
Please delete claim 2.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 11, 21-23, and 35-36 to read as follows (See also

Appendix A):

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1. (Amended) A cationic aqueous hydrogel comprising an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



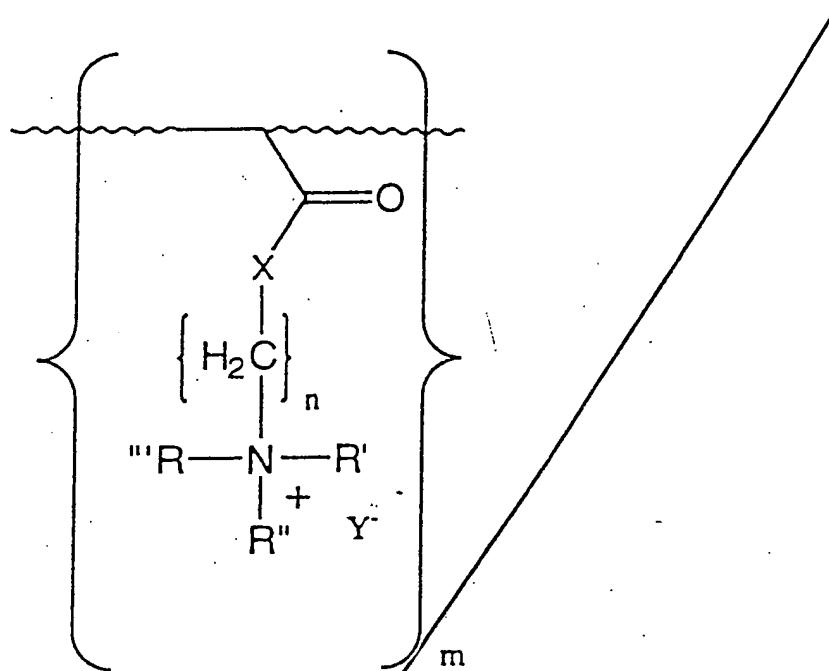
wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁ to C₁₆ alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y⁻ is an acceptable anionic counterion to the N⁺ of the quaternary amine and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

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10 11. (Amended) A wound dressing comprising a cationic hydrogel containing from about 15 to 95 weight percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary

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amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



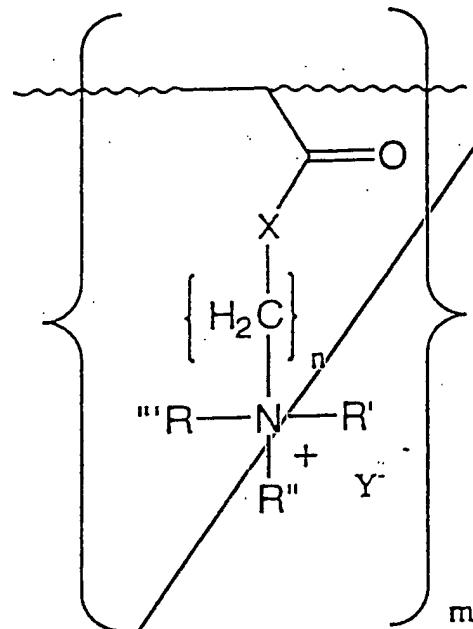
wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁ to C₁₆ alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y⁻ is an acceptable anionic counterion to the N⁺ of the quaternary amine and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

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20 *21*. (Amended) A wound dressing according to Claim *10* *21* wherein the hydrogel contains between about 61 and 90% by weight of said cationic quaternary amine acrylate polymer.

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21 *22*. (Amended) A wound dressing according to Claim *20* *21* wherein the hydrogel contains between about 65 and 75% by weight of said cationic quaternary amine acrylate polymer.

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(Amended) A device for the dressing of wounds comprising a substrate having fixedly attached thereto a wound dressing comprising a cationic hydrogel containing from about 15 to 95 weight percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁ to C₁₆ alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y⁻ is an acceptable anionic counterion to the N⁺ of the quaternary amine and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

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(Amended) A device according to Claim 23 wherein the hydrogel contains between about 61 and 90% by weight of said cationic quaternary amine acrylate polymer.

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(Amended) A device according to Claim 34 wherein the hydrogel contains